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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Michael Austin
Application No.:	09/966686
Filed:	October 1, 2001
For:	A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTRACTING, LOADING OR CRIMPING SELF-EXPANDING AND BALLOON EXPANDABLE STENT DEVICES
Examiner:	Marc Jimenez
Group Art Unit:	3726

GROUP 3700

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2N-7405-US02

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Amendment

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 26, 2002 and the Examiner's Interview Summary of the interview of June 5, 2003. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 46-71 as follows:

SUB F1M

46. (New) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
 a) providing a crimper having a plurality of closely spaced movable dies defining an aperture, the dies arranged to form an iris;
 b) placing a stent disposed about a catheter within the aperture;
 c) crimping the stent onto the catheter by reducing the size of the aperture.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the stent is disposed about a medical balloon, the medical balloon disposed about a catheter.

48. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of cooling the temperature of the dies below ambient temperature.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the stent is made of nitinol.

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